

Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Washington, DC 20420

M-2, Part VII
Chapter 7

January 19, 1994

1. Transmitted is a revision to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, Manual M-2, "Clinical Affairs," Part VII, "Pharmacy Service," Chapter 7, "Education and Training." Brackets have not been used to indicate changes.

2. The principal change is:

Paragraph 7.05b: Further defines the Pharmacy Management Trainee Program and the Trainee.

3. Filing Instructions

Remove page

Insert page

7-i

7-i through 7-ii

7-1 through 7-3

7-1 through 7-3

4. RESCISSIONS: M-2, Part VII, Chapter 7, dated March 28, 1991.

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Acting Under Secretary for Health

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M-2, Part VII
Chapter 7

M-2, Part VII
Chapter 7

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RESCISSIONS

1. PARTIAL

a. Manuals

M-2, Part VII, Chapter 7, dated March 28, 1991.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 7. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

PARAGRAPH	PAGE
7.01 Policy	7-1
7.02 Education and Training Programs	7-1
7.03 Responsibility and Control	7-2
7.04 Planning and Implementation.....	7-2
7.05 Definitions	7-2

M-2, Part VII
Chapter 7

January 19, 1994

(a) Attracting students and retaining them after graduation to provide quality health care to veterans;

(b) Enhancing the professional development of VA personnel as a result of the student-teacher relationship; and

(c) Utilizing VHA professional resources and clinical facilities to provide an adequate supply of health care personnel for VA and the nation.

(2) To establish affiliated education programs for Pharmacy Service, policies are provided in M-8, Part II, Chapter 2, paragraphs 2.08, 2.09, 2.10, and 2.34. The types of pharmacy students eligible for academic affiliations are pharmacy residents, Doctors of Pharmacy, Masters and Baccalaureate Pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians.

(3) Approved VA accredited Pharmacy Residency Programs, i.e., hospital, clinical, and clinical specialty, are provided funding support by Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) (143C). All other pharmacy student trainees are appointed on a without compensation basis. (M-8, Pt. II, Ch. 2, par. 2.34.)

7.03 RESPONSIBILITY AND CONTROL

CHAPTER 7. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

7.01 POLICY

Pharmacy Service endorses continuing education and staff development. Continuing education will be viewed as a personal responsibility and is expected of every pharmacist. Pharmacy personnel, whether they be in training or staff positions, will maintain professional competence. Pharmacy Service should develop and implement educational programs using a multidisciplinary approach. The education and training activities will strive toward the following:

a. Assist in the education and training of pharmacy practitioners and provide opportunities for the individual to remain competent.

b. Encourage pharmacy practitioners to participate in continuing education and staff development programs and advance their individual professional knowledge.

c. Reinforce and ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pharmacy practitioners achieve and maintain a high level of professional competence.

d. Motivate the individual to serve the best interest of patients.

e. Provide opportunities for pharmacy practitioners to interface with the public and other health care professions in an environment of mutual learning.

7.02 EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

a. Continuing Education and In-service Education

The Chief, Pharmacy Service, is responsible for planning and implementing educational and training programs. Each Pharmacy Service establishes policies and procedures for training and continuing education programs.

7.04 PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Provisions are to be made for VA pharmacy personnel to participate in the identification of their continuing educational needs and in the plans for meeting competency requirements. An interdisciplinary approach to sponsoring, planning, and implementing educational activities is encouraged. The continuing education programs will be consistent with the overall goals and objectives of VHA OAA (143). Whenever feasible and appropriate, efforts should be made to utilize facility directed Regional Medical Education Center (RMEC) administered VA medical center initiated resources or professional organizations to support education programs. Adequate staffing, space, and time allotment for any educational activity must be sufficient to ensure achievement of the objectives. Provisions must be made for pharmacy employees to have time available to devote to these educational activities. Facilities approved for use of Tuition Support Program funds for pharmacists may use these funds to support continuing education needs.

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7.02 EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

- a. Continuing Education and In-service Education

7.05 DEFINITIONS

The following are classifications of trainees who may typically be found in Pharmacy Service:

a. VA Pharmacy Residency

(1) Pharmacy Resident. A pharmacy resident is enrolled in or graduate of a pharmacy program accredited by American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE), and appointed to a VA Pharmacy Residency Program accredited by American Society of Hospital Pharmacists (ASHP).

(2) Hospital Resident. A hospital resident is enrolled in or graduate of a Masters or Pharmacy Doctorate Program accredited by ACPE, and a member or applicant for membership of ASHP. This residency may be for 1 year (40 hours per week) or 2 years (28 hours per week).

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a. Continuing Education and In-service Education

(3) Clinical Resident. A clinical resident is a post-masters or post-doctoral graduate of a school of pharmacy accredited by ACPE, and a member or applicant for membership in ASHP. The resident must have had prior experience in hospital pharmacy practice before entering this residency. The residency is for 1 year, full-time.

(4) Clinical Specialty Resident. A clinical specialty resident is a post-doctoral graduate of a school of pharmacy accredited by CPE, and a member or applicant for membership of ASHP. The resident must have had prior experience in pharmacy practice before entering this residency. The residency is for 1 year, full-time.

b. Administrative Training (Pharmacy Management Trainee). TP 10-21, Pharmacy Management Training Program (PMTTP), is a primary means for developing competent supervisory staff to conduct the pharmacy management function of VA. The PMTTP has been established to develop a well-trained reservoir of applicants to fill future chief, assistant chief, and other management positions in Pharmacy Service.

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a. Continuing Education and In-service Education

M-2, Part VII
Chapter 7

January 19, 1994

(1) This individual is a licensed pharmacist and VA employee who is developing competent management skills and knowledge through graduate academic course work at a VA facility designated by VA Central Office for such training.

(2) The trainee is under the supervision of the Chief, Pharmacy Service.

(3) This is administrative training (continuing education) funded by OAA (143/145).

NOTE: Application should follow those procedures outlined in TP 10-21.

c. Affiliated Training

(1) Clinical Clerk. A clinical clerk is a Baccalaureate, Masters, or Doctor of Pharmacy student receiving clinically-oriented pharmacy training at the facility. These individuals are generally under university-affiliated supervision and receive academic credit for licensure.

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M-2, Part VII
Chapter 7

January 19, 1994

(2) Extern. An extern is a Baccalaureate, Masters, or Doctor of Pharmacy student receiving affiliated training at the facility. This is for academic credit and is generally credited for licensure.

d. Local Training

(1) Intern. An intern is an undergraduate pharmacy student or a graduate pharmacist obtaining practical experience for purposes of licensure.

(2) Fellow. A fellow is a licensed pharmacist, or a graduate eligible for licensure, receiving postgraduate training at the facility, with the primary objective of doing clinical research. It may or may not be part of an advanced academic degree program.

(3) Technician Trainee. A technician trainee is an undergraduate student receiving practical and didactic training at the facility in order to meet certain minimum standards as required by VA or provided as a guide by State regulations. Generally, the trainee must always be under the supervision of a qualified technician or pharmacist preceptor.

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